Starting production of aerotyres in Dunlop units

575. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1082 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 2002 regarding production of aerotyres in Dunlop units and state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government to start production of aerotyres for Air Force from Dunlop;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when any Group of Ministers are being formed in line with revival of Dabhol plant of Enron project to bail out Denlop units; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Since the unit is located in West Bengal, in December 2001, the State Government was requested by Ministry of Defence to make efforts for reopening of Dunlop tyre unit at Sahagunge, West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The issues involved in revival of Dabhol Plant and Dunlop tyre unit are entirely different and cannot be compared.

Non-utilisation of funds for purchase of arms

576. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated for the purchase of arms and ammunitions for the Defence Forces largely remain unutilized in recent years;

(b) if so, the quantum of such funds;

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of funds; and

(d) whether the non-utilisation of funds has affected the preparedness of the Armed Forces in any way?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It is true that allocation made for Defence, which includes funds for acquisition of weapon systems, platforms, ammunitions etc., in Budget